

Occupational Therapy Program

Wilmington College

Minimal Technical Standards

The holder of an occupational therapy degree must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of therapeutic situations and provide a wide spectrum of patient care. In order to carry out such activities the therapist must be able to quickly, consistently, and accurately integrate, analyze, and synthesize data.

A candidate for a Master of Science (MS) in Occupational Therapy degree at Wilmington College will be expected to possess the following variety of abilities and skills: observation; communication; motor; sensory; strength and mobility; visual integration; intellectual, conceptual, integrative, qualitative, and quantitative; and behavioral and social. The definition of each follows:

- **Observation:** Prospective students must have sufficient vision to be able to observe demonstrations, experiments, and laboratory exercises in the basic and clinical sciences. To ensure quality and safety they must be able to observe a client accurately at a distance and up close.
- **Communications:** Prospective students should be able to speak, hear, and observe clients in order to elicit information; examine and treat; describe observable changes in mood, activity, and posture; perceive non-verbal communication; and maintain safety. They must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively in speech, reading, and writing with clients, families, and all members of the health care team.
- **Motor:** Prospective students should have sufficient motor functions to stabilize and execute the movements required for safe and effective clinical care. This requires coordination of both gross and fine motor movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.
- **Sensory:** Prospective students need enhanced sensory skills such as tactile discrimination and proprioception. This includes the ability to discriminate subtle changes in such things as muscle tone and strength.
- **Strength and Mobility:** Prospective students need the ability to maintain an upright posture with sufficient strength and mobility to transfer clients lacking those same capabilities.
- **Visual Integration:** Prospective students need adequate visual capabilities for evaluation and treatment integration, including the assessment of symmetry, range of motion, muscle tone, and tissue texture changes.

- **Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, Qualitative, and Quantitative:** Prospective students need to be able to problem solve by measuring, calculating, reasoning, analyzing, and synthesizing. They must also have effective organizational skills and be able to employ inductive and deductive reasoning strategies as they engage in basic, applied, and translational research. In addition, students need to be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships, grasp deep understandings of phenomenon, and understand the spatial relationships of structures.
- **Behavior and Social:** Prospective students must possess the emotional health required for exercise of good judgment, full utilization of their intellectual abilities, prompt completion of all responsibilities concerning the evaluation and care of clients, and successful development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with clients and other professionals. They must be able to tolerate taxing workloads, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainty inherent in clinical intervention.

In addition, it is important to note that prospective students can expect that professionalism and personal qualities such as compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interests, and motivation will be subjected to assessment at admission and regularly throughout the educational process.

Both the institution and program maintain compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, balancing student rights with institutional standards for admission and matriculation. Reasonable accommodations will be made for specific needs of students with disabilities. Students may apply for accommodations. Records are confidential and information is shared only with those who to know for accommodation purposes.

By signing the bottom of this document, you are acknowledging that you are aware of the content.

OT Program Applicant _____
Print Name

OT Program Applicant _____
Signature